

Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 5-30 are pending and at issue in the present application. Claims 1, 20, 27, and 28 have been amended herein, and claim 4 has been cancelled.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-22, and 24-30 as anticipated by Yip et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,859,615 ("Yip"). Further, applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 3, 13, and 23 as obvious over Yip in combination with Sugimura, U.S. Patent No. 3,410,488, Arabori et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,870,254, or Ueda, U.S. Patent No. 4,375,586.

Claim 1, and claims 2, 3, and 5-26 dependent on claim 1, recite an evaporation device for evaporating volatile substances such as aromatics and/or insecticides. The device includes a housing, a receptacle arrangement carried by the housing and having two receiving chargers for substances to be evaporated, and wicks inserted into the receiving chambers and having wick ends protruding from the receiving chambers. The device further includes a heater arrangement carried in the housing for providing heat to wick end evaporation areas of the protruding wick ends for evaporation. At least one blower is disposed within the device for generating a targeted air stream that is directed so that it does not impinge directly upon the heater arrangement but, advantageously, impinges upon one of the evaporated substances from the wick ends at the wick end evaporation areas. A control unit controls the heater arrangement to evaporate the substances and to control the blower to be switched on at defined evaporation times.

Claim 27, and claim 28 dependent thereon, specify an evaporation device for evaporating volatile substances such as aromatics and/or insecticides. The device includes a housing, a receptacle arrangement carried by the housing and having two

receiving chambers for substances to be evaporated, and wicks inserted into the receiving chambers and having wick ends protruding from the receiving chambers. Still further, the device includes a heater arrangement carried in the housing for providing heat to the protruding wick ends, at least one blower for generating a targeted air stream, and a control unit for controlling the heater arrangement to evaporate the substances and for controlling the blower to be switched on at defined evaporation times. At least one tapered interior wall forms a nozzle passage and opening in the housing through which the air stream passes, wherein the air stream is directed to that it impinges upon the wick ends, but not upon the heater arrangement.

Claim 29, and claim 30 dependent thereon, recite an evaporation device for evaporating volatile substances such as aromatics and/or insecticides, and including a housing and a receptacle arrangement carried by the housing and having two receiving chambers for substances to be evaporated. The device further includes wicks inserted into the receiving chambers having wick ends protruding from the receiving chambers, a heater arrangement carried in the housing for providing heat to the protruding wick ends, and at least one blower for generating a targeted air stream. A control unit controls the heater arrangement to evaporate the substances and controls the blower to be switched on at defined evaporation times. The device further includes at least one tapered interior wall forming a nozzle passage and opening in the housing through which the air stream passes, and at least one interior housing wall at least partially separating the air stream and the heating arrangement to avoid cooling of the heating arrangement.

None of the cited art discloses or suggests an evaporation device having a

receptacle arrangement with two receiving chambers having wicks inserted therein and wick ends protruding therefrom, a heater arrangement, and at least one blower for generating a targeted air stream that is directed so that it does not impinge directly upon the heater arrangement but impinges upon an evaporated substance and a wick end, as recited by claims 1-26.

In addition, none of the cited art discloses or suggests an evaporation device having a housing, a receptacle arrangement carried by the housing and having two receiving chambers and wicks inserted in the chambers and wick ends protruding from the chambers, a heater arrangement, a control unit, and at least one tapered interior wall forming a nozzle passage and opening in the housing through which the air stream passes, wherein the air stream is directed so that it impinges upon the wick ends, but not upon the heater arrangement, as specified by claims 27 and 28.

Still further, none of the cited art discloses or suggests an evaporation device having a housing, a receptacle arrangement carried by the housing and having two receiving chambers and wicks inserted in the chambers and wick ends protruding from the chambers, a heater arrangement, at least one blower, at least one tapered interior wall forming a nozzle passage and opening in the housing through which the air stream passes, and at least one interior housing wall at least partially separating the air stream and the heating arrangement to avoid cooling of the heating arrangement, as recited by claims 29 and 30.

In fact, referring to Figures 16-21, YIP discloses a multi-fragrance scent dispenser 110. The dispenser 110 includes a base 114 and a domed cover 116 that may be removed from the base 114. The cover 116 includes an opening 118 at an

upper end thereof for emission of vaporized scents. The base 114 includes a generally lower over-shaped section 120 with a central generally oval-shaped recess 122 and vertically extending end walls 124, 126 disposed at opposite ends of the recess 122. Divider walls 128, 130 separate the area between the end walls 124, 126 into three bottle holding areas 132. Platforms 146 are disposed in each bottle holding area 132 to hold fragrance bottles 156 having wicks 162 extending upwardly therefrom. A cylindrical support wall 164 extends above each bottle 156 and is mounted to the end walls 124, 126 by an upper plate 166 having openings 168 there through. Heater housings 170 holding heater assemblies 172 are disposed with respective upper plates 166, such that the wicks 162 extend into a central opening 171 in the heater housing 170. Referring to Figure 19, a fan 238 is disposed within the dispenser 110 on one side of the bottles 156, wherein the fan 238 is disposed in a compartment formed by walls 138, 231 and the cover 116. Openings 244 are formed in the wall 231 so that air from the fan 238 can enter the dispenser 110, entrain vaporized fragrance therein, and exit the dispenser 110 through the opening 118.

The fan of Yip is not directed so that air therefrom does not impinge directly upon the heater assemblies 172. Specifically, air from the fan 238 of Yip is directed upwardly through the openings 244. Once forced air exits the openings 244 into the dispenser 110, some air may be forced out the opening 118 in the upper portion of the dispenser 110. In addition, due to the curved nature of the dispenser cover 116, and the fact that the openings 244 are not aligned with the opening 118 in the cover 116, some of the air will naturally follow the curved formation of the dispenser cover 116 and circulate within

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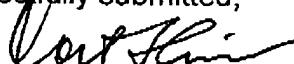
the dispenser 110, including around the heater housings 170 and heater assemblies 172, thereby cooling the heater assemblies 172.

Yip also does not disclose at least one tapered interior wall forming a nozzle passage and opening in the housing through which a stream of air passes. As noted above, the air stream of Yip is directed through the opening 244 and an opening in the dispenser 110, but neither of such openings is tapered to form a nozzle passage.

Sugimura discloses an automatic perfume atomizer including multiple atomizing units that may each have a fan associated therewith. Arabori discloses a hot air circulating cooker and Ueda discloses a cooking assistance device for use with a microwave oven. None of Sugimura, Arabori, or Ueda supplies the deficiencies of Yip noted above.

Reconsideration and allowance of the foregoing claims is respectfully requested. The examiner is welcome to call the undersigned attorney to discuss the pending claims for the purpose of expediting this prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,


Cort Flint, Reg. No. 27,260
McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A.
P.O. Box 447
Greenville, S.C. 29602
Telephone: (864) 232-4261
Attorney for the Applicant